

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1950

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.,

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Boldon Urban District Council,

1950.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MAURICE HANNAH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR ROBERT FARROW.

COUN. T. BROWN.	COUN. MRS. M. A. SIMPSON.
„ J. J. EGGLISHAW.	„ F. H. THUBRON.
(from 27/9/50)	(until 22/8/50)
„ T. P. EDWARDS.	„ J. TRACEY.
„ R. McDARMONT.	„ W. TROUPE.
„ S. ROBINSON.	„ W. T. WILSON.
COUN. J. WINTER.	

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.J.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I.,
A.M.I.S.E.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS H. MILLAR.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby present my tenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. W. Armstrong.

I am pleased to state we have been free from any epidemics. Measles and Whooping Cough were responsible for most of the notifications received during 1950 ; there were no cases of Enteric Fever, Malaria, Smallpox, Typhoid or Paratyphoid reported. Diphtheria continues to be on the decline ; two cases only were notified, both were isolated in the Sunderland Infectious Diseases Hospital. We had 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, the same as last year ; being mostly of a mild nature, the majority of these cases were treated at home. Eleven notifications of Poliomyelitis were received, nine only were confirmed, one of which died. All the confirmed cases were paralytic. A further death from Poliomyelitis was brought to my notice through the transferable deaths ; a case of a boy of 10 years of age, a resident of Cleadon who had died in North Devon Infectious Diseases Hospital having contracted the disease whilst away from home. All the contacts of the notified cases were visited and methods of prevention explained. During the year, one case of Food Poisoning was notified, however, this was not confirmed.

Contacts of Typhoids and Smallpox cases were visited ; there were no cases in this area. I visited a suspected case of Smallpox, which turned out to be a vaccination rash on a Sailor who had been recently vaccinated against Smallpox during the outbreak in Glasgow.

I visited several cases, where help was required for aged, needy and infirm persons. Some of these received Home Helps, through Durham County Council, others accommodation in Hospital, and where necessary cases were admitted into Cambridge House Hostel, Barnard Castle.

Since the opening of the Geriatric Unit in Sunderland, I have taken the opportunity to discuss the desirability and particularly the early admittance of our elderly people to the above Unit, and also taken part in the examination, treatment and aftercare of these patients. I would like here to express my gratitude to the Consultant in charge of this Unit, for his effort and co-operation in this most important subject.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Councillor F. H. Thubron, who died on the 22nd August this year, also that of a former Medical Officer and later Deputy Medical Officer of this area, Dr. Wm. Armstrong, who died in a Cheltenham Nursing Home on the 18th November. Dr. Armstrong retired from Boldon in March, 1938, where he had been in practice for 45 years.

Housing and Health—Overcrowding cases reported into the Health Department, were investigated, especially those associated with Tuberculosis, these were given every consideration by the Health Committee.

The Legal action taken in the case of an existing nuisance at a piggery in Whitburn resulted in the Council being awarded 150 gns. costs.

I quote below the Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1950 and 1949, showing comparisons.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1949	16,870	18.4	13.9	32.0
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	23.7

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times.

REGINALD SMITH,

*Health Department.
June, 1951.*

Medical Officer of Health

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1950 is 17,100.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1950	68	34	102

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1949	79	41	120

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Births and Birth Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	148	147	295
Legitimate	144	144	288
Illegitimate	4	3	7

The BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 17.2.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS	2	5	7
Legitimate	2	5	7
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is .40.

Deaths and Death Rates.

During 1950 there were 201 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

110 males, and 91 females.

The DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 12.1.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1950.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1946	15,850	19.2	10.0	} Crude Death Rate.
1947	16,090	22.1	12.4	
1948	16,310	18.2	11.5	
1949	16,870	18.4	13.9	} Standardised Death Rate.
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	

Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures include those of members of the armed forces who were stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e. including members of the armed forces stationed in the area) and the birth and death rates given are based on these populations. Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and for the Boldon Urban District are :— Comparability Factor for Births 1.03 Comparability Factor for Deaths 1.04 these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

The number of births, stillbirths and deaths allocated are those registered during the year 1950 as adjusted for inward and outward transfers. They may therefore differ from unadjusted figures compiled locally.

Infantile Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	2	.....	2

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 23.7.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1950 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Year. Rate.

1946	49.1
1947	70.2
1948	50.5
1949	32.0
1950	23.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1950.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1950 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	0	7
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	0	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	2	0	2
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	4	8
12. Malignant neoplasms, breast	0	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	11	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	24	38
18. Coronary disease angina	16	9	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20. Other heart disease	4	6	10

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
21. Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22. Influenza	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia	4	4	8
24. Bronchitis	5	1	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	1	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	11	21
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	0	1
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of War	1	0	1
All causes	110	91	201

There were 26 less deaths in 1950 than in 1949. A comparison of this table with last year's shows an increase in Road Traffic Accident deaths; Bronchitis; Pneumonia and Intra. cranial vas. lesions and a decrease in the total number of deaths from Cancer and Heart Disease.

VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950.**

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 total population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
DEATHS—				
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infect.	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
DEATHS—				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age ..	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.				
NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and Cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
651. Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650,652 Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	0.03	
680, 682-689. Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 1950.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1950 are as follows :—

For Tubercle.

Positive 5
Negative 41
—
46
=

For Diphtheria.

Positive—
Negative—
—
Nil.
=

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Ambulance Service, Ambulances or sitting case cars are requisitioned for by the patient's Doctor, Midwife, Dentist or Nurse, and on production of a medical certificate supporting the need of transport. Enquiries are referred to Hebburn Ambulance Station, 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn. Telephone Hebburn 32157.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunisation, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record of immunisation is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday a reminder is sent in the shape of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunisation. Contact is again made when the child reaches the age of four years and nine months. Vaccination also comes under the Durham County Council, information and form of consent is sent out to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

NURSING ETC.

The inhabitants are provided with a Queens Nurse, District Nurse and two Health Visitors, each health visitor is responsible for the supervision of a separate district and are employed by Durham County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under 5 years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, once a week (Tuesdays) under the supervision of Durham County Council, there is also a Clinic and welfare centre held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn alternate Thursdays.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements were made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases for Infectious Disease, where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1950, was 142; this figure excludes tuberculosis cases and shows an increase of 91 cases

over last year, the increased figure is accounted for in the larger number of Measles and Whooping Cough cases notified this year as compared with 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1950.

Measles	96	
Smallpox		
Scarlet Fever	5	
Diphtheria	2	
Enteric Fever		
Paratyphoid		
Pneumonia	1	
Puerperal Fever		
Puerperal Pyrexia		
Dysentery	1	
Whooping Cough	27	
Acute Poliomyelitis	9	confirmed cases.
Food Poisoning	1	(not confirmed).

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing has been carried out by your staff on the removal of cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been nursed at home. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis has occurred.

Visits are made to all the notified cases of the important infectious diseases, the history of each case is taken and investigation made of the possible source of infection; the premises and infectious articles are disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLACTIC for immunising against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for issuing to the local practitioners in the area. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available from the Chemists and Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Bottles of Disinfectant are issued from the Health Department on a Doctor's Note or Health Visitor's slip as usual.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquenium preceding 1950, is shown thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1945	14,920	6	1	15	7	9	.....	1	1	56	10	.....	.....	.....
1946	15,850	6	.....	4	19	10	.....	1	.....	9	16	.....	.....	.....
1947	16,090	8	.....	10	11	8	.....	3	4	79	20	3	.....	.....
1948	16,310	1	.....	9	11	5	.....	2	.....	33	5	.....	.....	.....
1949	16,870	1	.....	5	16	6	1	2	.....	26	3	1	2	.....
1950	17,100	2	.....	5	20	8	1	1	.....	96	27	9	.....	1

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.											Total Cases notified in each Ward.								
	AT AGES—YEARS.																			
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Whiteleas	Cleaton
Scarlet Fever	5	3	8		1		2		1	1				3	1					1
Whooping Cough	27				9		7							23	2	1				1
Diphtheria	2						1	1						1	1					
Measles	96	1	21		27		39	4	1	3	1			10		19		39	1	27
Pneumonia	1																			
Acute Poliomyelitis	9	1	1		1		2		4			1		4		1		5		
Acute Encephalitis																				
Dysentery	1																			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																				
Puerperal Pyrexia																				
Smallpox																				
Paratyphoid																				
Enteric or Typhoid																				
Food Poisoning																				
Erysipelas	1										1									1
Chicken Pox																				
Malaria																				
Cholera																				
Typhus Fever																				
Total	142	5	30		38		51	5	6	4	2	1		41	4	21		44	2	30

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 28 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 20 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 8 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 8 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis. 7 were Pulmonary cases, and 1 Non-Pulmonary.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.			DEATHS.		
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
0-5	1	1	..	..	..	..
5-15	1	1	..	..	..	..
15-25	1	4	2	..	..	..
25-35	3	1	1	..	1	..
35-45	3	1	1	..	..	..
45-55	2	..	..	3	1	..
55-65 .....	..	..	..	2	..	..
65 and upwards	1	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	12	8	4	5	2	1
						..

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied principally by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. Other premises are dependent on British Railways supply, and one house secures its supply from a shallow well.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supply generally was satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year. One block of 8 houses had an insufficient supply, the Ministry of Health were asked to make a grant towards the improvement of this supply but stated that they are unable to do so.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations have been made of the water from various deep wells in the magnesium limestone, which constitute the supply and also of the water as it reaches the consumer, and the following results were obtained :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml</i>	<i>B.Coli %</i>		<i>Pos. in 1 ml</i>
			<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 10ml</i>	
Wells	38	97.4	2.6	.....	.....
Reser- voirs	92	92.4	7.6	.....	.....
Taps	104	89.4	8.6	2.0	.....

(iii) The water supply has no detectable plumbo solvent action.

(iv) The supply is chlorinated and no form of contamination has taken place.

(v) (a) There are 4,787 Domestic Premises connected to the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's public supply main in the Boldon Urban Council's area, and 8 premises connected to British Railways supply mains.

(b) There are no standpipes in the area.

A typical chemical analysis and Bacteriological Examination of the water supply is given below :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solids	59.0
Chloride.....	7.00
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride	11.55
Total Hardness	38.4
Temporary Hardness	28.6
Permanent Hardness	9.8
Nitrogen as free Ammonia	Nil.
Nitrogen as Nitrate	0.20
Nitrogen as Nitrite	Nil.
Iron	Nil.
Colour (Hazen degrees)	5
Suspended Matter	Nil.
Total Hardness (degrees)	26.9
Temporary hardness (degrees)	20.0
Permanent Hardness (degrees)	6.9

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms per millimetre after incubation at 37° for 48 hours	2
Bacillus Coli	absent in 100 mls.

PRIVATE STREETS.

A list was prepared of the Private Streets in the Urban District which required to be made up, inspections took place and recommendations made. A programme of work required to be done was agreed upon and submitted to the Minister of Local Government and Planning for consideration.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

To the Chairman, and Members of the Health Committee.

I present for your consideration, my second Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector which is for the year 1950.

The sanitary condition of the district has been maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition during the year ; although improvement of many matters has still to be deferred due to restrictions on expenditure.

It is still to be regretted that the systematic demolition of unfit dwellings can not be carried out, and that owing to the inflated values now obtainable many individual dwellings are being bought and re-conditioned for further use, which would normally be pulled down. The situation with regard to the repair of property is still difficult owing to the material shortages, poor workmanship and the extremely high costs in comparison with the rents paid.

The clean food campaign has been fairly successful in promoting a keener interest in hygienic methods of handling, etc. Many traders have provided additional washing facilities. Unfortunately the careless trader in a small way of business whom we wish to improve is usually the most stubborn, and it is here that clean food guilds fail, as they cannot compel any trader to go beyond the minimum requirements of the law.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement, and the members of the staff for their practical co-operation during the year.

Yours truly,

R. W. ARMSTRONG,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS performed during the year :—

Complaints received during the year 150

HOUSING.

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of Houses inspected 353

No. of visits made 692

UNDER HOUSING ACT.

No. of Houses inspected 32

No. of visits made 32

Cases of overcrowding investigated 25

DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.

No. of inspections 60

Miscellaneous visits 64

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated 38

Number of visits made 52

Number of houses disinfected 28

Lots of Bedding disinfected or destroyed 25

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to Butchers' Shops 113

„ Bakehouses 132

„ Fishmongers 14

„ Greengrocers and fruiterers 8

„ Ice Cream Premises..... 44

„ Restaurants and Cafes' 23

„ Grocers 64

„ Fried Fish Shops 10

„ Dairies 11

GENERAL SANITATION.

Visits in connection with :—

Water supply 7

Drainage 82

Piggeries 128

Tents, Vans, Sheds 16

Factories 98

Workplaces and Offices	32
Theatres, Public Halls & Public Houses	24
Shops	484
Rats and Mice	28
Squatters' Camps	25

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the work of reconstructing and amending the sewerage system in the district was continued and appears to be progressing smoothly. Large areas of land in the district are flooded owing to the heavy rainfall and mining subsidence. It is to be regretted that no means seems to exist of compelling the owners or the mining authorities to carry out drainage work so as to make these lands suitable for agricultural and other purposes.

The sewage of the district is discharged into the sea and the River Tyne in crude state.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of additions have been made to the Sanitary accommodation in the district, as shown by the table below :—

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Ash Closets	75	75	73	70	68
Water Closets	4,967	5,025	5,251	5,373	5,566
Chemical Closets	7	7	7	7	29

The increase in the number of chemical closets is due to the provision of these conveniences in connection with caravans on various sites in the district.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious case of pollution has occurred during the year. The Durham County Council as the authority for the prevention of pollution dealt with one complaint of a manufacturing company discharging bituminous compounds into a stream. One ditch which was neglected and choked was cleaned and regraded by the owner on request.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses built and occupied during the year	189
Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	353
Number of Houses inspected under the Housing Act	32
Total number of visits made in connection with the above	725
Number of houses unfit for human habitation, in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	2
Number of Houses found to require repair under the Public Health Act	61
Number of Houses found to require repair under the Housing Act	23
Number of Houses repaired under Public Health act after formal notices by the Local Authority	7
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority	8
Number of Houses repaired under the Public Health Act as a result of informal action	48
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act as a result of informal action.....	11
Total number of defects remedied	239

SQUATTERS' CAMPS.

The three War department camps which are being used, deteriorated further during the year with a corresponding rise in the cost of maintenance.

One Camp, that of North Pastures, was declared by the War Ministry to be redundant, and huts becoming vacant have been demolished by the Ministry of Supply.

The other Camps are to be used for training, and the Military authorities are anxious to have the remaining families removed. The Local Authority have adopted the policy of not letting again any Huts which become vacant and these are at once returned to the War Department.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are five sites in the district used for the stationing of moveable dwellings. The Local Authority have byelaws in force with respect to camping sites and little difficulty is experienced with regard to the camps.

The caravan owners are made responsible by the land owner for the provision of suitable chemical closets and storage bins for refuse. He in turn provides water supply and arranges for the collection and disposal of the refuse usually on the adjoining farm land. Many of the vans are only used on fine weekends and it is difficult to force registration in these cases although every attempt is made to secure this.

During the year 16 visits were made to sites and caravans.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the district is satisfactory. The water being supplied by the South Shields and Sunderland Water Co. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in respect of infectious diseases amongst school children.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

98 Visits were made to factories during the year, and the premises as a whole were in very good order, the only defects being minor ones.

The tables below are in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

PART I OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In- pections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	11	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.	37	83	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	4	4	.....	.....
Total	52	98	.....	.....

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. by H.M.</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
			<i>Inspector</i>	<i>Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	3	2	.....	.....	.....

PIGGERIES.

There are still a large number of premises in the district where pigs are kept, although the number of animals is less than last year—this is apparently due to the shortage of feeding stuffs. The difficulty with regard to the positioning of large commercial piggeries in residential areas still exists, and the construction of many buildings, although in remote positions, leaves much to be desired from a sanitary standpoint.

Proceedings which the local authority instituted against a person who would not keep his pigs in a cleanly condition in the midst of a residential area were concluded. The Court declared the local authority's case proven and made an order for the owner to keep the animals in a clean manner.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits within the urban district, the ground being afterwards levelled and used for agricultural purposes.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No Statutory action has been necessary in connection with smoke abatement during the year. Premises using boilers and other coal fired plant are frequently visited and stokers etc., advised of the importance of avoiding the emission of smoke. One firm has been trying for a number of years to obtain a larger capacity boiler without success, which means that the one in use is overworked with consequent loss in efficiency and the constant likelihood of causing a smoke nuisance.

No complaints were received of smoke emissions from Colliery spoil heaps.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

RODENT CONTROL.

In April, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into force, which laid upon Local Authorities the responsibility of ensuring that their districts were kept free from infestation by Rats and Mice, and for carrying out destruction measures in their own properties.

During the year two complete treatments were carried out on the local authorities sewers which were infested. and all the manholes, 597, were tested for evidence of infestation. In addition, many private houses were treated at the occupiers request for minor infestations. Several farms in the district have been treated by the Durham County Council Agricultural Committee's Rodent operators.

It is estimated that 382 Rats were destroyed during the year by the Council's staff.

FOOD & DRUGS.

All the food preparing premises and the majority of other places storing or selling foodstuffs have been regularly inspected during the year involving 408 visits. Premises are usually kept in a clean state, and the majority of traders are anxious to ensure that hygienic methods of handling and storing food are followed. The food guild of hygiene, which was sponsored by the Council, although not receiving enthusiastic support, has been a success in so far as it brought to traders notice the question of detailed attention to personal cleanliness and to protecting foods from contamination by flies, dust, etc. It also induced 23 traders to install apparatus for the provision of hot water on tap for washing purposes. The code of practice, although an advance on Statutory requirements must be of a general nature and cannot, in such a wide field, set too high a standard. Codes should be drawn up by the responsible government department for enforcing by the Local Authority so as to make the standard for each trade the same throughout the Country. Finally, each trader in foodstuffs should be made to stick to his own line, and not allowed, as now, to have a mixture such as greengroceries, ice cream and cakes etc., and paint stores selling groceries. This can only be done by registration, and no food dealer should be allowed to operate except if registered.

BAKERIES.

There are six bakeries in the area, all of which are frequently inspected. The principal difficulty with regard to such premises is lack of space owing to the volume of business being much greater now than it was when commenced. The buildings cannot be similarly expanded to cope with the extra business.

ICE CREAM.

These are three premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and seventeen for the sale of Ice Cream. Many premises now selling this substance should in my opinion not be allowed to do so. The opinion of the Legal experts seems to be that it is necessary to be able to prove there is a danger to health in order to prevent its sale. This is very difficult in cases where the Ices are received already packed and stand in a refrigeration cabinet until sold. Thirty-nine Samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory with the following results :—

	<i>Grade.</i>				<i>Total.</i>
	1	2	3	4	
No. of Samples	15	9	8	7	39

MEAT & SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption takes place in this district at present. Slaughtering for the area is carried out at the Government controlled slaughterhouses at South Shields from where the meat is distributed to the butchers. Frozen and chilled meats are still too frequently sent to butchers in a dirty condition, and the long periods of storage to which it has been subjected have destroyed the fine appearance which is associated with the better qualities of imported meat. Every endeavour is made to inspect as many as possible of the pigs slaughtered for home consumption under the small pig-keepers scheme.

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

These numbering 12 have been frequently inspected during the year. Whilst the majority are satisfactory structurally and hygienically, the few which are not, are very difficult to deal with. Small shops with but a few registrations cannot see any reason for spending large sums of money on improvements, when the opportunity to increase their business is none existent. It is unfortunately, just these small businesses which require such improvement.

Vans and Lorries delivering meat are inspected as opportunity occurs, and are usually in a clean state.

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

7 tins of Crayfish.	3 tins of Mussels.
13 „ Peaches.	27 „ Beans.
34 „ Peas.	183 „ Milk.
25 „ Tomatoes.	4 „ Beetroot.
1 „ Lambs' Tongues.	1 „ Meat Soup.
16 „ Luncheon Meat	5 „ Salmon.
9 „ Plums.	12 „ Chopped Pork.
1 „ Marmalade.	3 „ Steak
3 „ Macaroni.	1 „ Rabbit.
2 „ Mixed Vegetables	2 „ Minced Beef.
1 „ Minced Meat.	1 „ Tongue.
2 „ Cake Flour.	2 „ Corned Beef.
1 „ Pilchards.	1 „ Pickled Cabbage
1 „ Carrots.	1 „ Pork Brawn.
1 „ Cooked Ham.	1 „ Apricots.
1 „ Jellied Veal.	1 „ Kidney Soup.
6 Jars of Jam.	2 Jars of Pears.
1 Jar of Cherries.	2 Jars of Pickles.
26½lbs. Butter.	22½lbs. Bacon.
40lbs. Pork Sausage.	656lbs. of Beef.
	77½lbs. of Mutton.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of those sections of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food, and they take samples for analysis.

SHOPS ACT, 1934 & 1950.

The Shops Act, 1950 came into force on the 1st of October, 1950, and re-enacted the sections of the 1934 Act relating to the duties of Sanitary Authorities which deal with heating, Ventilation and sanitary accommodation in shops.

During the year 444 visits were made in connection with the inspection of shops.

A summary of defects found is set out below :—

<i>Defect.</i>	<i>Number Found.</i>	<i>Number Remedied.</i>
Insufficient ventilation .....	.....	.....
Unsatisfactory Heating arrangements .....	.....	.....
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation.....	.....	.....
Sanitary accommodation not separate for the sexes	1	.....
Sanitary Accommodation—		
Dirty	2	2
Defective.....	.....	.....

There are 138 shops in the area and they carry on 19 types of business as follows :—

Cafes, etc.	3
Sweets & Ice Cream	8
Drapery, Clothings etc.	10
Grocery	33
Newsagents, Tobacco etc.	3
Greengrocery	11
Fishmongers	3
Fish & Chip Fryers	7
Bootmaker & Repairs	6
Butchers	13
Chemists	4
Bakers & Confectioners	8
General Dealers	14
Ironmongers	3
Hairdressers	7
Fireplace Merchants	2
China & Glass Merchants	1
Electrical Goods	1
Cycle Dealers	1

